



Public Review Meeting on Fish and Wildlife Costs

March 7, 2005
Discussion Questions



Allocation of Effort

There are three issues associated with mitigation: pace, prioritization and mitigation responsibility. It's important to determine appropriate funding levels for the MOU and the next rate period, taking into account: the priority of actions, geographically, by recovery strategy, and by species. BPA will be setting program levels a year ahead of when a roll up of subbasin planning may be completed.

- How should these pace, prioritization and mitigation responsibility issues be addressed in the near term in developing the Integrated Program funding level for the next rate period?



Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Currently, RM&E is funded and managed under the Integrated Program, the Corps of Engineers, CRFM Program and through the NOAA Fisheries Science Center. About \$40 M of the Integrated Program expensed budget for 2005 is dedicated to RM&E.

- How should BPA and the Council approve RM&E in the future to make it more strategic, efficient and focused on providing improved information in fish and wildlife management issues that regional policy makers are grappling with?
- Likewise, how would it apply to the broader combination of CRFM, NOAA-F and the Integrated Program?



Cost Sharing

BPA believes cost sharing is particularly appropriate in cases where specific responsibilities are unclear or where these are shared among parties.

- How might BPA structure a cost-sharing policy to ensure it is not missing opportunities to undertake important or priority mitigation that meets common goals of each?
- Further, what structure would facilitate increased partnering among parties with funds that may be available but are underutilized?



Capitalization

- Given the accounting requirements reflected in BPA's policy and how they constrain our access to capital funds, what structure for planning would you suggest to enable those priority investments (e.g., land acquisition, conservation easements) that do not meet the capitalization policy?